SASKATCHEWAN'S VOLUNTARY SECTOR: REFLECTING OUR STRENGTH

THE PREMIER'S VOLUNTARY SECTOR INITIATIVE

2005 UPDATE

CHAIR: DOREEN HAMILTON, LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY TO THE PREMIER FOR THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR INITIATIVE

VICE-CHAIR: TRACEY MANN, UNITED WAY OF REGINA

2007-00055

2005 PREMIER'S VOLUNTARY SECTOR INITIATIVE UPDATE

DOREEN HAMILTON
CHAIR

I am pleased to provide you with an update of the work of the Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative. Since the introduction of the Initiative in 2002, the steering committee and many members from the voluntary sector have accomplished much in building upon Saskatchewan's rich heritage of volunteering and community involvement. This update serves to report on these accomplishments. It also provides a work plan that details next steps for the Initiative.

I would like to thank all members of the Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative Steering Committee for their dedication and the many people who attended the first annual forum in June 2005, for their advice and guidance. I am looking forward to building upon these positive relationships as we move forward with the Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative.

Doreen Hamilton

Doreen Hamilton
Legislative Secretary
Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative

PREMIER'S VOLUNTARY SECTOR INITIATIVE 2005 UPDATE

"This social fabric relies heavily on the commitment, dedication, and generosity of volunteers. Through the Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative, the province is formalizing its long standing relationship with the thousands of organizations that comprise our voluntary sector. Government acknowledges the invaluable contribution of the voluntary sector - and the individual volunteers throughout the province - to our quality of life."

Speech from the Throne 2005

BACKGROUND

Premier Calvert launched the Voluntary Sector Initiative on April 25, 2002.

The purpose of the Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative is to strengthen the relationship between Government and Saskatchewan's voluntary sector so voluntary sector organizations can operate as effectively as possible in fulfilling their individual mandates.

The specific objectives of the Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative are:

- To build a formal relationship between the public sector (Government of Saskatchewan) and the voluntary sector.
- To build capacity within Saskatchewan's voluntary sector.
- To build awareness:
  - of the value of the voluntary sector and volunteers to our society;
  - of the ways in which voluntary sector organizations structure themselves; and
  - of the structure of the relationship between the public and voluntary sectors.

National studies confirm that Saskatchewan continues to have the highest rate of volunteerism among Canadian provinces with 42 per cent of citizens 15 years of age and older involved in volunteer activity. Saskatchewan volunteers contributed 49.7 million hours of volunteer time in 2000 or the equivalent of 26,000 full time jobs. The service value of this contribution is estimated at 800 million dollars. In the Prairies, people employed in the voluntary sector represent 15 per cent of the labour force.

Most jurisdictions in Canada make reference to three sectors: the public sector, the private sector and the voluntary sector. Saskatchewan has four distinct sectors: the public sector, the private sector, the voluntary sector and the co-operative sector. Canada's co-operative movement has its roots proudly in Saskatchewan, and the spirit and philosophies of the co-operative sector are evident throughout the province in public policy, financial institutions, consumer choices and more. The co-operative sector falls partially in the private sector. Co-operative enterprises do not all operate the same way; some fit the definition of Saskatchewan's voluntary sector; other co-operatives fall under the "for profit" private sector mandate.

The Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative builds on impressive strengths that already exist in Saskatchewan. It also recognizes that more can, and must, be done to maintain and enhance the benefits of voluntarism to Saskatchewan people. The Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative recognizes the fundamental value of our province's voluntary sector to life in Saskatchewan. The value of the voluntary sector goes far beyond the fact that volunteers work for free. The voluntary sector represents the human presence at the community level.

TRACEY MANN
PVSI CO-CHAIR
UNITED WAY OF REGINA

Doreen Hamilton, Legislative Secretary and MLA for Regina-Wascana Plains, chairs the Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative together with Tracey Mann of the United Way of Regina on behalf of the voluntary sector. Several provincial government departments have representatives on the Steering Committee as do a wide range of voluntary sector organizations.

CURRENT PVSI STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Doreen Hamilton, Legislative Secretary to the Premier for the Voluntary Sector Initiative, Chair

Tracey Mann, United Way of Regina, Vice-Chair

Brenda Ahenakew, representing First Nations Community

Norm Campbell, Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association

Rose Gilks, SaskCulture Inc.

Sheri Benson, United Way of Saskatoon

Brenda Campeau, Youth representative

Sonya Jahn, Prince Albert Parkland Regional Health Authority

Warren Proctor, Sask Sport Inc.

Harold Just, representing private sector

Dastageer Sakhizai, representing visible minorities

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

Lori St. Denis, Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization

Lynn Minja, Community Resources and Employment

Paulette Mazenc, Corrections and Public Safety

Dawn Martin, Culture, Youth and Recreation

Mary-Anne Wihak, Environment

Gwen Jacobson, Government Relations

Michelle Maurer, First Nations and Métis Relations

Jennifer Hayward, Health

Bill Spring, Industry and Resources

Katrine McKenzie, Justice

Kevin Tunney, Learning

Marilyn Day, Rural Development

"The values of this initiative help encourage young people to become involved in our voluntary sector. It is important to provide opportunities for them to engage in developing our communities and our province. Because of the exciting ideas and innovative approach of youth, Saskatchewan's future and heritage will be ensured through this initiative."

LYLE BENKO
L*A*M*B* CONSULTING
(ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING)

The two lead departments supporting the Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative are the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation and the Department of Community Resources and Employment. The lead departments are represented on the Voluntary Sector Initiative's Executive Committee and Steering Committee. Organizations from the voluntary sector also have representatives on both of these committees.

The first report of the Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative, published in November of 2002, has clarified understanding between the sectors and developed a framework for improving the relationships. The report contained the following:

1. VISION FOR THE INITIATIVE

"The outcome of the work of this Initiative will be a vibrant, robust environment that promotes quality of life and encourages active citizenship in Saskatchewan. The Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative builds on an effective and collaborative relationship between the Government of Saskatchewan and the voluntary sector."

2. VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

VALUES

Active Citizenship – welcoming the active involvement or engagement of individuals and communities in shaping society whether through political or voluntary activity or both.

Autonomy – understanding, respecting and valuing those occasions when either the Government of Saskatchewan or Saskatchewan's voluntary sector manage related initiatives independent of each other.

Democracy – upholding the right to associate freely, to express views freely and to engage in advocacy and active citizenship.

Diversity – respecting the rich variety of cultures, languages, identities, interests, views, abilities and communities in Saskatchewan. First Nations and Métis people will be a strong part of the process and structures.

Equality – respecting the rights of Saskatchewan people under the *Saskatchewan Human Rights Code*.

Equity – ensuring fairness and justice in the processes and structures established between the Government of Saskatchewan and the voluntary sector.

Excellence – recognizing that excellence is achievable and desirable and that it will be achieved through working in partnership toward a common goal.

Importance of community – understanding that Saskatchewan's strength lies in its commitment to community. This commitment includes the importance of families, respect and concern for each other and the importance of trust and integrity.

Inclusion – welcoming the expression and representation of diversity and upholding the right of each to speak and be heard.

Innovation – recognizing that innovation and creativity are part of Saskatchewan's heritage and will play a crucial role in the success of the Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative.

Respect – for organizations and individuals comprising the voluntary sector, for government, for professional employees and for communities volunteering their collective efforts.

Responsibility – understanding that the Government of Saskatchewan, the voluntary sector, the private sector, the co-operative sector and individuals in our province all have a responsibility to help shape the future of our province.

Social Justice – ensuring the full participation in the social, economic and political life of communities.

PRINCIPLES (HOW THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN AND SASKATCHEWAN'S VOLUNTARY SECTOR WILL OPERATE)

Accountability – In addition to their separate accountabilities, the Saskatchewan voluntary sector and the Government of Saskatchewan are accountable for maintaining the trust and confidence of Saskatchewan residents relating to this initiative by ensuring transparency, high standards of conduct and sound management in their work together and by monitoring and reporting on the results.

Advocacy – is inherent to debate and change in a democratic society. The right of organizations to advocate their positions and interests to the Government of Saskatchewan will be upheld.

Community – the Government of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan's voluntary sector are undertaking their work on behalf of Saskatchewan's communities, recognized as the foundation of Saskatchewan's enviable quality of life.

Consensus – the work of the committee is built on consensus, and joint work defined by the Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative will move forward when consensus that represents the general will of the two sectors is reached.

Co-operation and Collaboration – The Government of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan's voluntary sector agree that the social fabric of communities is strengthened and civic engagement is increased when they work together to address issues of mutual concern, respecting what others contribute and the challenges and constraints under which they operate.

Independence – the Government of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan's voluntary sector are autonomous, have unique strengths and separate accountabilities and respect each other's need to maintain relationships with each other outside the mandate of the Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative.

Interdependence – Saskatchewan's voluntary sector and the Government of Saskatchewan recognize that the actions of one can directly or indirectly affect the other and that each has complex and important relationships with others (business, labour, federal and local governments, etc.). The Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative is not meant to affect these other relationships.

Open Communication – the sharing of ideas, perspectives and experiences leads to a rich, responsive initiative that will serve the broad spectrum of community needs in Saskatchewan. Discussions and other means of communication will be respectful, will build and maintain trust and will respect confidential information.

Shared Leadership – the Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative represents a symbiotic relationship between the provincial government and the voluntary sector that is best served by shared leadership.

"The economic contribution of the non-profit sector is larger than many major industries in Canada, and amounted to 6.8 per cent gross domestic product (GDP) in 1999, according to the first-ever official estimates. The economic contribution of the non-profit sector increases to 8.6 per cent when volunteer work is taken into account."

NATIONAL SURVEY OF NON-PROFIT AND VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS
(STATISTICS CANADA 2003)

3. COMMON WORKING DEFINITIONS

Saskatchewan's Voluntary Sector: The voluntary sector in Saskatchewan consists of self-governing, not-for-profit (including charitable) organizations and community-based groups that benefit Saskatchewan's communities by contributing their expertise and resources, and the time and talents of volunteers working on their behalf. Voluntary sector organizations and groups do not distribute any profits to members. Although many voluntary sector organizations rely on professional staff to carry out their work, all depend on volunteers, at least on their boards of directors.

Volunteer: The term "volunteer" refers to all who work by choice, without remuneration, on causes or for people outside their personal sphere.

Capacity Building: Capacity building is the use of organizational development models and training to develop a community's skills. The aim is to increase the ability and willingness of community members to initiate projects, programs and businesses, to organize these ventures and to keep them operating.

Co-operative: The term "co-operative" refers to an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise.

Non-Profit, Not-for-Profit, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) or Non-Government Organizations (NGOs): These are terms commonly used to describe organizations that do not distribute profits to their members. Any operating surplus is reinvested back into the mission of the organization.

4. AN INVENTORY OF GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN INTERACTION WITH THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

THIS INVENTORY IDENTIFIES RELATIONSHIPS THE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS HAVE ESTABLISHED:

- Aboriginal Affairs (listed under Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs);
- Agriculture and Food; (listed under Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization);
- Corrections and Public Safety;
- Culture, Youth and Recreation;
- Community Resources (listed under Social Services and Learning);
- Environment;
- Government Relations (listed under Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs);
- Health;
- Industry and Resources;
- Rural Development (listed under Agriculture; Food and Rural Revitalization);
- Learning; and
- Justice.

"The conference gave the Saskatchewan Association of School Councils an opportunity to meet with our peers who volunteer from the grassroots to provincial levels in Saskatchewan. The common language, mutual respect and values reflected throughout the conference are a shining example of the social awareness in Saskatchewan today."

SARAH SUN
PRESIDENT, SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL COUNCILS

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Assisted in clarifying the issues related to liability of volunteer boards and board members (2003).
- Participated in the Department of Justice's consultations on amendments to *The Non-Profits Corporation Act* (2004).
- Established the following website to publicize the Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative and its work: www.cyr.gov.sk.ca/voluntary_sector_initiative.html (2004).
- Published the following materials:
  - *The Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative: A Framework for Partnership between the Government of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan's Voluntary Sector (2004).*
  - *Annual Updated Inventory of Government of Saskatchewan Interaction with the Voluntary Sector (2004).*
  - *Volunteer Board Members of Non-Profit Corporations and Personal Liability (2004).*
- In the fall of 2004, the PVSI issued a request for proposal to have a consultant prepare a report on best practices in the relationship between government and the voluntary sector. The report, *Building a Collaborative Partnership between the Government of Saskatchewan and the Voluntary Sector: A Review of Best Practices*, was released in March of 2005 (2004-2005).
- Co-operated with the Canada Volunteerism Initiative in the following areas:
  - Held symposia in several communities on best practices in collaboration and capacity building subjects identified by the community.
  - Publicity of National Volunteer Week, drawing on the publications, publicity and poster of the national initiative.
  - Publicity of the Canada Volunteerism Initiative and its materials.
  - Supported the launch of the Knowledge Network, a Saskatchewan website for volunteer development, at www.spra.sk.ca/knowledge (2004-2005).
- Participated in the spring celebrations of National Volunteer Week with acknowledgement in the Legislative Assembly, a reception at the Legislative Building and media interviews (2005).
- Supported the recognition of volunteers through the Centennial Spirit Awards and through the Centennial Leadership Awards (2005).
- Planned and implemented the first annual forum between the provincial government and the voluntary sector in Saskatoon, June 2005, to strengthen the relationships established and address issues of mutual concern.

"Non-profit and voluntary organizations have a major impact, touching on virtually every aspect of Canadians' lives. In 2003, about 161,000 non-profit and voluntary organizations were operating across the country in a wide variety of areas."

NATIONAL SURVEY OF NON-PROFIT AND VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS
(STATISTICS CANADA 2003)

Several national reports and a consultant's review of best practices in Saskatchewan commissioned by the PVSI were reviewed by the Steering Committee and have helped to guide the development of the work plan for next year.

The studies raise several key issues that were confirmed by Saskatchewan stakeholders through the PVSI Steering Committee dialogue and by the participants at the annual forum in Saskatoon. The issues that the provincial government and the voluntary sector need to work together to address include:

- Declines in the number of citizens choosing to volunteer and an increase in the average number of hours contributed by individuals who continue to volunteer.
- Declining rates of volunteerism as people age and Saskatchewan's increasingly older demographic profile and its impact on Saskatchewan's network of volunteers.
- Continued reliance by individuals and the general public on voluntary organizations to provide a complex array of important services.
- Changes to the manner in which governments fund the voluntary sector that are shown to be straining the sector's capacity to provide services.
- An on-going high level of interest in the voluntary sector in contributing to the public policy development process.
- Recognition and support for a collaborative approach between the voluntary sector and government agencies within the research as the most likely way to successfully address the key challenges.

"The services provided by the voluntary sector are the foundation on which many of our social, economic, health and recreation initiatives are built. Continued collaboration and a commitment to further develop the partnership between the government and voluntary sectors is essential to success. By working closely together, we can maximize our impact and strengthen our capacity to improve the quality of life for all Saskatchewan people."

NORM CAMPBELL
CEO, SASKATCHEWAN PARKS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION

KEY RESEARCH FINDINGS

1. **2000 National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating**
   - Just over 6.5 million people, or 27 per cent of Canadians 15 and older, volunteered their time and skills to a charitable or non-profit organization.
   - The total number of hours volunteered was just over one billion.
   - Volunteers contributed 162 hours over the year, on average.
   - Seven per cent of all Canadians gave 73 per cent of all volunteer hours.
   - With fewer Canadians volunteering, the total number of hours volunteered fell by five per cent.
   - In almost every province, the volunteering rate declined while the average hours volunteered increased.
   - One of the greatest declines in volunteer participation was among those who had a university degree (from 48 to 39 per cent).
   - The volunteer time contributed in 2000 equalled 549,000 full-time, year-round jobs–29,000 fewer than in 1997.

2. **National Survey of Non-profit and Voluntary Organizations (Statistics Canada 2003)**
   - Individual Canadians gave generously to organizations, both in terms of money and time. In 2003, Canadians donated more than $8 billion and organizations reported a combined volunteer complement of more than 19 million. These volunteers contributed more than two billion hours of volunteer time, or the equivalent of more than one million full-time jobs.
   - Non-profit and voluntary organizations have a major impact, touching on virtually every aspect of Canadians' lives. In 2003, about 161,000 non-profit and voluntary organizations were operating across the country in a wide variety of areas.

- Nearly three-quarters provided services or products directly to people as opposed to other organizations. About 46 per cent reported serving the general public, while children and youth were served by 23 per cent of organizations, the elderly by 11 per cent and people with disabilities by 8 per cent. Other specific populations served include Aboriginal peoples, immigrant populations and religious communities.
- Overall, governments provide 49 per cent of the funds that organizations receive, of which four-fifths comes from provincial governments.
- Non-profit and voluntary organizations appear to be experiencing difficulties fulfilling their missions or achieving their organizational objectives, which may limit their ability to contribute to the community.
- Just over one-half reported having problems with planning for the future, recruiting the types of volunteers needed and obtaining board members.
- Just under one-half reported difficulty retaining volunteers, obtaining funding from other organizations such as government, foundations or corporations and difficulty obtaining funding from individual donors.
- The economic contribution of the non-profit sector is larger than many major industries in Canada, and amounted to 6.8 per cent gross domestic product (GDP) in 1999, according to the first-ever official estimates. The economic contribution of the non-profit sector increases to 8.6 per cent when volunteer work is taken into account.

3. Funding Matters Report (Canadian Council for Social Development 2003)

- Funders are adopting an increasingly targeted approach to funding.
- There has been a marked shift away from a core funding model, which funds organizations to pursue their mission. The new model is project-based and is characterized by contracts that give funders increased control over what the organization does and how it does it.
- Funders are reluctant to fund administrative costs that cannot be directly tied to a project or a program.
- Funding is being provided for shorter periods of time and is increasingly unpredictable.
- Reporting requirements have increased.
- Funders increasingly require organizations to make joint submissions with project partners and to demonstrate that they have secure funding from other sources (financial or in-kind contributions) before extending their support.

"Just over 6.5 million people, or 27 per cent of Canadians 15 and older, volunteered their time and skills to a charitable or non-profit organization. The total number of hours volunteered was just over one billion."

2000 NATIONAL SURVEY OF GIVING, VOLUNTEERING AND PARTICIPATING

4. The Rural Charitable Sector Research Initiative (Imagine Canada and the Trillium Foundation 2005)

- The results of our interviews indicate that rural non-profit and voluntary organizations face several unique challenges, including:
  - A small and shrinking pool of potential board members, staff members, volunteers and donors due to migration from rural to urban areas.
  - The high cost of serving clients who are spread out over great distances.
  - Lower economies of scale.
- These challenges mean that rural organizations have both higher operating costs than urban organizations, and fewer human and financial resources to draw on. Interviewees recognized that urban and rural organizations face many of the same challenges. Their perception, however, is that rural organizations have a harder time overcoming these challenges because:

- They have less access to certain types of funding (e.g. corporate sponsorships, individual donations).
- The networks that they can build are smaller and more costly to maintain due to greater distances between organizations.
- They have less access to technology and other resources.
- They can devote fewer dollars to education and training because of the cost of having volunteers and employees travel to and from training locations.

5. **Trends in Collaboration: Lessons Learned from Sectoral Involvement in Departmental Policy (Voluntary Sector Forum 2005)**
   - These findings include:
     - The tendency (by government programs) to take a provider-centred perspective rather than that of the service user.
     - The lack of incentives or rewards for organizations or individuals who contribute to corporate/horizontal goals or those of another department or organizations.
     - The absence of the skills and capacity to develop and deliver cross-cutting solutions.
     - Budgets and organizational structures that are arranged around vertical, functional lines (e.g. education, health, defense) rather than horizontal cross-cutting problems and issues (e.g. social exclusion, sustainable development).
     - Systems of accountability (e.g. audit) and the way risk is handled often work at cross-purposes to innovative crosscutting work.
     - The centre is not always effective at giving clear, strategic direction, and providing mechanisms for resolving conflict between departments.

6. **Building a Collaborative Partnership between the Government of Saskatchewan and the Voluntary Sector: A Review of Best Practices (Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative 2005)**
   - Lessons Learned About Government-Voluntary Sector Collaboration
     - Changes in key players and mistrust between sectors slow down the process.
     - Consultation is not collaboration.
     - Collaboration is not a way for government to control service delivery.
     - Collaboration between government and the voluntary sector means both come to the table as equal partners.
     - Develop knowledgeable civil servants who understand and support voluntary sector activities.
     - Champions within government departments are needed to carry the message and win others over.
     - Recognize that the process of building good working relationships takes time.
     - The process of working together is as important as the product in increasing understanding between the sectors.
     - Balance autonomy and accountability.
     - Build relationships based on mutual trust and respect.

"The volunteer time contributed in 2000 equalled 569,000 full-time, year-round jobs – 29,000 fewer than in 1997."

2000 NATIONAL SURVEY OF GIVING, VOLUNTEERING AND PARTICIPATING

OUR "GO FORWARD" WORK

The primary focus of the PVSI is to provide a whole of government approach to the relationship between the province and the voluntary sector. In undertaking this task, the PVSI will add value to the ongoing work of individual departments and their voluntary sector partners and not replace departments as the primary point of contact on matters pertaining to departmental mandates. The PVSI will work on cross-cutting initiatives outlined in the work plan below and work to support departments in their efforts to strengthen relationships with particular voluntary organizations. In order to achieve success in the overall relationships, departments need to work toward improvements based on the current situation within their specific areas of responsibility.

2006-07 WORK PLAN ACTIVITIES

1. **Relationship Sector/Government**
   - The consultant's review on best practices recommended the establishment of a Secretariat to lead the Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative. A formal stand alone Secretariat or Minister responsible was not discounted and may be considered in the future. However, for this year in addition to the Executive Committee and Steering Committee, the work of the Legislative Secretary will be supported by an annual budget of $175,000. These funds will offset the costs associated with policy support, research, communications, administrative support and the delivery/implementation of the work plan of the PVSI.
   - Government departments that work with the voluntary sector will support the work of the PVSI through:
     - providing a mechanism for the "whole of government approach" to the sector as per the consultant's review on best practices by ensuring active participation by all departments on the PVSI Steering Committee.
     - collaborative work on the key initiatives such as the proposed policy conferences, the June Forum, and the consultant's review on best practices recommendations.
     - information dissemination to department staff and client groups on specific strategies such as the Knowledge Network, on-line learning for directors, the PVSI framework document and the PVSI liability brochure.
     - linking the initiatives of the PVSI to their respective work plans and activities and using the principles and values in the framework document.
   - Conduct an annual meeting with Human Services Deputy Ministers to report on progress, identify issues and discuss future priorities for action.
   - Work with the Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD) in support of the *Funding What Matters* research project.
   - Begin to work with the sector on a better understanding of the funding mechanisms used by government departments.
   - Report on overall sector impact using the updated report on *Giving, Volunteering and Participating*, to be released in June 2006.
   - Confirm the PVSI Steering Committee as an ongoing dialogue forum to strengthen collaboration and to provide feedback from the sector as a whole to government on the health of the relationship.
   - Provide an annual status report to the Premier.
   - Over the next year, the voluntary sector representatives on the PVSI Steering Committee are encouraged to work to improve the effectiveness of relationships within the sector using the principles and values in the framework document. This work could lead to a set of expectations for the sector that would be parallel to the expectations of government departments.

2. **Awareness**
   - Partner with Canada Volunteerism Initiative (CVI) on behalf of government on national awareness initiatives.
   - Develop a provincial, post-centennial recognition strategy in conjunction with the Office of Protocol and Honours.
   - Use the PVSI to support and profile department recognition activities.
   - Update the *Inventory of Organizations* and add contact information.

3. **Capacity Building**
   - Collaborate with the CVI on regional workshops and the promotion of the Knowledge Network.
   - Work with the Department of Justice to develop on-line learning opportunities for board members and directors on matters pertaining to *The Non-profit Corporations Act*.
   - Plan and conduct the annual forum as well as policy conferences to ensure that senior leaders in government departments and sectors are aware of the issues affecting the relationship and the potential role of the PVSI in addressing these issues.
   - Work with Regional Intersectoral Committees on an inventory of capacity building supports that currently exist and identify future needs based on their understanding of community supports and activities of the informal agencies that operate in the community.
   - Work with the Crossing Boundaries Initiative to link the voluntary sector to efforts in the public sector to improve service delivery through a user-centered approach and more effective use of technology.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information, please contact:

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Fax: (306) 798-0033
Website: www.cyr.gov.sk.ca/voluntary_sector_initiative.html

Government of
Saskatchewan

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